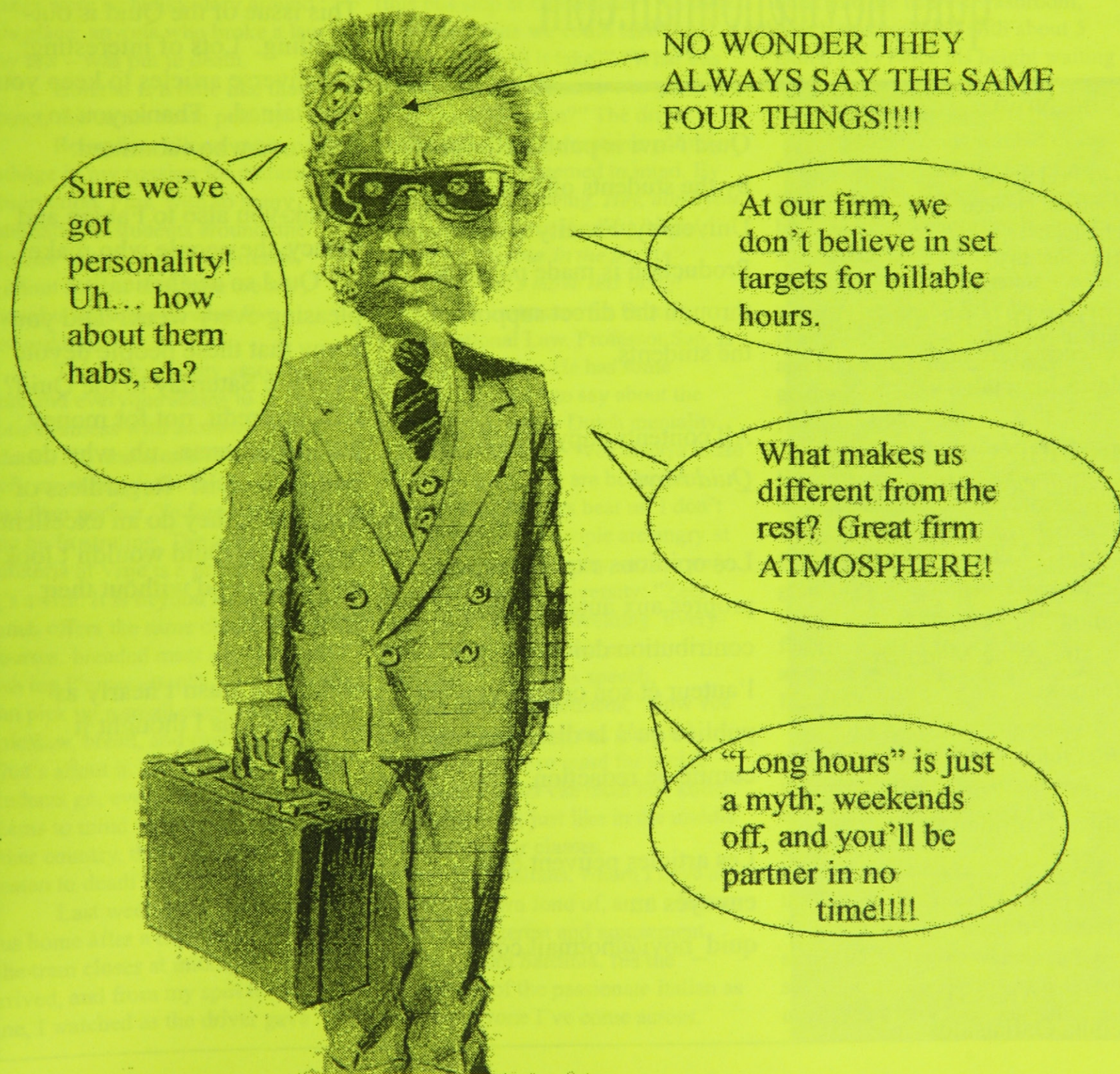


# Quid Novi

McGill University, Faculty of Law

VOLUME 22, NO. 14

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THEY WERE ACTUALLY HUMANS....  
**THE LAW FIRM CAREER-DAY ROBOT**





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## Editor's Note

Dear All,

Blame it on a great weekend, the snow or the fact that Hayden's coming to town, whatever the cause, I'm in an absolutely fabulous mood and I've temporarily run out of bitchy things to say. Instead, I'm going to follow the lead of my esteemed colleague, Marta, and try to say something nice.

This issue of the Quid is outstanding. Lots of interesting and diverse articles to keep you entertained. Thank-you to everyone who submitted.

Thank-you also to Fabien and Nancy, the people who make the Quid so aesthetically-pleasing every week. Did you know that these people devote an entire Saturday to the Quid? Not for credit, not for money but just because...uh, why do you guys do it? Regardless of the reason, they do an excellent job and the Quid wouldn't look nearly as good without their hard work.

OK. That wasn't nearly as nauseating as I thought it would be.

Rebecca.



# Our Man in Amsterdam

## Culture Club

by Jeremy Waiser, Law III

I saw this episode of *Star Trek, The Next Generation*, once, where the crew of the *Enterprise* had traveled to a new planet that seemed, in many ways, like Utopia. The people were all attractive and kind, the cities were pretty and clean, and no one broke the law. All was well until crewmember Wesley (remember the kid from *Stand By Me*?) unwittingly broke a seemingly insignificant law of the planet. Then we found out why things were so hunky-dory around this place: anyone who broke a law – any law – was put to death.

Holland is a little like that planet, minus the death penalty.

Being here allows me to indulge in my passion for cultural observation. Plus, with so many international students around, the pickins' are plentiful. So friends, without further ado, here are my thoughts on some of what I've noticed thus far.

Things run pretty smoothly here and everyone seems to go about their business with a certain contentedness. No one seems to complain very much about the things that are less than perfect. To foreigners, this can be frustrating. The school cafeteria at Vrije is a prime example. It's awful. It is beyond awful. Every lunch offers the same choice of main courses: breaded meat log or breaded fish log ("croquetten"). As a side, you can pick up a small crap-salad of coleslaw, bread, and runny yogurt. That's about it. It's very Stalinist. Yet students go, every day, and no one seems to mind very much. In any other country, the Chef would be beaten to death with the croquetten.

Last weekend I had to catch a bus home after a night out downtown (the tram closes at midnight). The bus arrived, and from my spot tenth in line, I watched as the driver gave

exact change to everyone who got on. This took a good 8 minutes. No one minded. The people on the bus sat patiently. The people in line stood patiently. I should mention that it was freezing and raining. I stood in line muttering obscenities under my breath.

Finally, I got to pay and take a seat. I figured we were moments from departing. But last in line was a Spanish couple intent on making certain inquiries of the driver. "Does this bus stop at Uilenstede?" "Is there a prettier route we could take?" "How long will it take?" "What bus should we take tomorrow to get to the Van Gogh Museum?" The driver answered all their questions politely in turn. No one seemed to mind. By this point I'm stewing. *Hey, don't you want to ask where the best falafel stand is? It's four in the frickin' morning – let's move this thing!*

My instructor for Dutch Constitutional Law, Professor Sap, is quite a character. He has some interesting things to say about the peculiarities of the Dutch mentality. On Dutch football: "Vee always looze to zee Italians; Vee are better zen zem. But zey always beat us. I don't know vye. Some people are angry at zee players, but zey say, *eet eez only a game*." On the university: "Zees eez not a very nice beelding. Everyone knows zis. But eet eez eefficient." After his speech, Profeesor Sap announces, "Now vee must hev kofie. Eet eez guud for taste. Eet eez also guud for social eenteraction. So vee must hev kofie." And so we do, just like in the middle of all my other classes.

The Italians, whom I have also quickly grown fond of, are a constant source of interest and amusement. Matteo, from Sardinia, fits the stereotype of the passionate Italian as well as anyone I've come across.

After a long lunch downtown, Matteo had to pee. Since we were running late for class, Matteo left the restaurant without peeing. During the 15 minute tram ride to school, Matteo again expressed his desire to relieve himself. "Man, do I-a have to pisse."

By the time we got to school, Matteo was dying. "Holy sheet man, I gotta pisse sooo bad!" He was running now, knobby-kneed, to the bathroom. A small group of us followed behind, howling. Matteo burst into the nearest washroom, which was crowded with about 5 Dutch guys twice his height waiting for the urinals. "Please! I beg you, make way for me—I gotta pisse!"

Since nobody wanted to see Matteo soil himself, the sea of men parted and Matteo was able to empty his bladder to a chorus of laughter and cheers. He was oblivious, moaning—actually moaning—with pleasure and relief. Like he was peeing out love itself. He finished up and said with satisfaction and gratitude, "Thank you brothers, thank you brothers."

Sara (pronounced Saara), from Bologna, stands five-foot-one, with wild, Medusa-like blonde locks. When she talks, her hands flare out from her sides, cutting the air and grabbing pieces of it between her thumb and the tips of her other fingers. Sara recently enlightened us as to the social dynamics between Italian lovers.

If a man screws up badly enough, a woman will let him know it. Often a heated discussion will ensue. The man may try to put up a good fight in order to save face. But he must watch himself, lest he risk the *Succia* (pronounced sook-ya). This is the all-powerful ace up the sleeve of the Italian woman. It means suck it. Literally. When pronounced, usually in a very loud voice, it signals



to the Italian man that he has exhausted his goodwill and her patience. Now the only acceptable course of action is for him to shut up, perform oral sex, and then not speak for a substantial period of time.

(Author's note: though true,

this story was neither told, nor should it be taken, too seriously. But damn, it's funny, no?)

Right. That should be enough offensive material for a few good responses in the Quid. Next weekend I'm headed to the South of France.

Who knows? There may just be something worth writing about there. Keep you posted.

## A Whole New Notice Board

**H**ello Notice Board fans. Notice here. Hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and can remember Law Games. Now it's time to get back to work, keep you informed and spare you hundreds of mass e-mails that would otherwise bombard your e-mail accounts about books for sale, Annie Macdonald Langstaff lectures and McGill Jewish Law Student Association Meetings. Besides, how else you going to know who is paying for the beer each Thursday... This quid article has two purposes. If you've been wanting to post stuff, but not sure how people get their messages on each Monday and Thursday, or why your message didn't appear the way you thought it would, read on. Also, Notice Board is receiving new features, and a **new e-mail address**. Check for these below.

### Notice Board's New E-mail Address

To post a message (or tell Notice where to go with Notice's stupid jokes), send a regular e-mail to:  
notice.law@mcgill.ca

### How to Use Notice Board

Notice Board is easy to use. Follow these three easy steps and wait for your message to appear on Notice Board on Monday or Thursday.

1. Open a blank, regular e-mail window
2. Type the content of your posting in the body of the e-mail message.

3. Send the e-mail to **notice.law@mcgill.ca**

Easy as that. Of course, Notice appreciates people who consider the following:

1. Notice Board readers have lives. Keep it short (more than 5 or 6 lines and you lose Notice's attention and Notice has to read Notice Board twice a week) and give readers a way to get more information if they want to.
2. If you want people to contact you, include how in your message. Sometimes Notice catches this mistake and sticks an e-mail address on your posting, but Notice isn't perfect.
3. No attachments. Notice has a blanket policy against attachments and will delete any messages with files attached. They carry viruses and they plug up inboxes and web-based e-mail systems bounce them back, which sucks.
4. No formatting. Notice bolds the title of your posting. That's it. Notice works in Pegasus, which is easily the worst e-mail program going and formatting in your message has been known to underline an entire Notice Board. Furthermore, not everyone can see fancy formatting anyway.
5. No commerce and no mean stuff. Sell things you would sell at a garage sale over Notice Board, but don't sell things that allow you to deduct expenses under section 9 of the tax act (i.e. if you're in business, Notice doesn't want to hear from you).
6. NO ALL-CAPS. If your whole message is in caps, Notice won't post

it. It's ugly, hard to read and electronic-speak for yelling. Some caps to add emphasis are fine, but not in the title, which is always uniform. GOT IT!?

7. Don't ask for your own "special message". Notice Board is supposed to cut down on mass e-mail, not make more. Except for the LSA executive, anyone who submits gets lumped into a Monday or Thursday Notice Board. "Urgent Notices" are different, but we'll get to that.

Here are some tips too for getting the most out of your Notice Board experience:

1. Submit early. Notice sorts the e-mails submitted in the order they were received and posts them on Notice Board the same way. So, if you submit your posting at 11:59, Wednesday night, your posting will probably appear at the bottom of the stack. If you really want your posting at the top of the heap, submit it the day a Notice Board is published (i.e. Monday or Thursday afternoon).
2. Be brief. Law students read everything, but the longer your post, the faster they'll skim (I'll bet three quarters of you didn't even read this line).
3. Come up with your own catchy title. Notice makes titles up for postings with no titles. Usually they're boring (e.g. Myriam is selling books), but if Notice is cranky, they can become sarcastic or misleading (e.g. The history of Swoozie Kurtz's Film Career).
4. Write your name somewhere. Usually it appears in the "from" line on your message, but some of you



haven't filled the display name in and Notice can't decipher who "skurtz@lsa.lan.mcgill.ca" or "buttucasmus@hotmai.com" is.

How to make an "urgent" Notice:

1. Think. Can this really not wait until next Monday or Thursday? Notice checks and if the date of your "urgent" notice is after the next regular posting, it's going out with the regular mail.
2. If it's still urgent, think some more. Does the ENTIRE LAW SCHOOL COMMUNITY need to hear about this "urgent" event? If your post is destined to fewer than twenty people, with all due respect, write to them yourself!
3. Still urgent, huh? All right, send Notice your posting the way you normally would, but put "Urgent" in the subject line of your e-mail. Notice tries to check the account once a day. Notice doesn't open all the e-mails except to make regular Notice Boards. Notice just reads the subjects and if one says "urgent", Notice opens it up. Some of you might be thinking it would be funny

to send an "urgent" Notice with the message "sucker" in the e-mail, but see if anything you submit after that ever shows up on Notice Board...

4. Get Notice a beer at coffeehouse if Notice posts your urgent message. Easy as that. Now on to the new stuff.

### New Features at Notice Board

Chris Foote at the Library Information Management Service says that along with the new e-mail address, Notice Board will have some a couple other new features to play with.

There is a "Notice Board Icon" in the NAL Window (the one you can't close when you log on to a school computer). Behind this icon students can:

1. Read old Notice Boards. I can understand why because Notice is so witty and charming. Who wouldn't want to revisit the layout mastery Notice assembles twice a week? Of course, if you deleted your Notice Board without taking down a phone number, it's probably good for that too.

2. Add or remove students from the list. If you would rather receive Notice Board in your hotmail account, you can! You could before, actually, but you had to ask Notice and Notice had to fill out some form on the Internet and Notice didn't always remember so it would take a week or two between the request and the actual change. Notice thinks this is one of Chris' best ideas yet.

All of this should be happening soon. Notice told Chris to go ahead with the new address and icon thing right away. If you send an e-mail to the new address

**notice.law@mcgill.ca** and it bounces, send a message to the old one instead. The transition shouldn't be long.

E-mail Notice anytime with questions about Notice's autocratic policies and stupid rules. Frankly, if you can think of a better way of doing things, I'm game 'cuz no one left Notice a manual for how to do this every week.

Thanks for using Notice Board.

# The Interspecies War

## Part II : A Description of the Tobor Nation

by Pablo E. Bustos, Law III

*Several species are now fighting to control planet earth. The two main adversaries in this war are the homo dominus, led by Bob and controlling all of Mars and all of the earth except Australia, and the Tobors, an artificial life form that controls only Australia. Humans are on the sidelines, being segregated to the moon Phobos on the orders of Bob, who wishes to destroy them.*

The official language of the Tobor Nation was bits and bytes 5,436, a computer language. Only the Tobors could read the language, which was conveyed by holding hands and transmitting electricity. Every Tobor was programmed to die

defending the Tobor Nation if necessary, and this meant that a Tobor would rather die than reveal how to read bits and bytes 5,436. Despite this fanaticism, the language of the robots was occasionally cracked by the *homo dominus*, and because of this bits and bytes had to be modified 5,435 before.

The standard Tobor was a 12 foot tall android, although there were differently sized Tobors for different jobs. Some Tobors were very small, and were disguised as insects or birds, so that they could clandestinely roam through the rest of the world to spy on their archenemy the *homo dominus*.

Tobor Land was on the island

once called Australia, and to defend their nation the Tobors developed a strong navy. Developing robots that looked and acted like underwater animals, from whales to dolphins, the Tobors roamed the earth's seas, and when the time came to fight these underwater robots transformed themselves into formidable warships.

Tobor Land itself was, at least for the time being, seemingly impregnable. Bob, who resided on Mars in the city of Bush, had attacked Tobor Land a myriad of times in the past, but he still could not annex the island.

While Bob controlled all of Mars, and most of earth, the Tobors still had a formidable presence in the



seas of the earth, and this served as one of the many reasons why Bob could not annex Tobor Land.

The Tobors were Raelians. Their creator, Pablo Escobar XII, had programmed them that way. Escobar also programmed into the Tobors knowledge as to how they could reprogram themselves. It is for this reason that the Tobors were able to consistently adapt to changing circumstances, and to develop a highly advanced civilization within their island nation.

Raelianism, the religion of the Tobors, promoted peace and love. Thus, the Tobors promoted peaceful coexistence with all other life forms, artificial or natural, and were against Bob's plans to destroy some forms of natural life, all forms of artificial life, and to segregate the *homo sapien* to the planet Phobos.

*Homo sapien* could not control the Tobors. The Tobors were stronger, smarter, faster, and generally more advanced. Although the Tobors, like the *homo dominus*, originated from the inventions of man, *homo sapien* could no longer control what it had invented. However, humans had nothing to fear from the Tobors. The Tobors believed themselves to be fighting for the peaceful coexistence of all, and they considered *homo sapien* an ally in its struggle against the tyranny of Bob the Blob.

Despite their common goals, and implied alliance, the Tobors and the humans rarely interacted after Bob had ordered all the humans to be sent off to Phobos. At the time of that order, most humans lived on Mars. The frequent use of nuclear weapons had made life virtually uninhabitable for humans on earth for a long time, and the only ones that remained lived far beneath the surface of the earth.

They lived in tunnels, in caves, but most of all in isolated bubble villages, where oxygen was created artificially, and where the inhabitants would never see the sun.

Only 35 humans remained on earth. Twenty-two lived with Mada, the President of Bubble City Alpha, which had the capacity to house over one thousand humans, but was home to less than two dozen.

Tired of living away from the sun, which they had never seen and had only known about by the writings of history, the remaining thirteen humans attempted to reach the surface of the earth, and eventually succeeded.

Fortunately, for these twelve humans, the nuclear winter caused by the last nuclear war had subsided, and because of this upon reaching the surface of the earth these humans could survive.

Unfortunately, this life under the sun would soon come to a close. Bob's plan was to destroy all life on earth, and all life on Mars except herself.

For over a century, the Tobors were the strongest force in the solar system. They, being robots, could be made to think as fast, and their memories to be as large, as the most advanced computer. Being an artificial life form, the Tobors constantly adapted to changing circumstances. They could be made very strong, very fast, and could do a myriad of wonderful things.

Pablo Escobar had programmed the Tobors for good, but eventually the Tobor's hegemony subsided, and evil took its place. Artificial life forms were created to destroy the Tobors, but the Tobors could always adapt, and thus could defeat these life forms.

It took centuries to develop a

genetically altered organism that could overpower the Tobors, but eventually such an organism was created. They were the *homo dominus*, led by Bob the Blob, a female giant whose brain was so massive her intelligence could match, and eventually surpass, that of any Tobor.

As Bob matured, her brain became more and more intelligent. Although the Tobors were, man to man, stronger than the *homo dominus*, under the leadership of Bob the Tobor's hegemony vanished. As the power of the Tobor Nation declined, natural life once again ruled over artificial life.

Bob altered the *homo dominus*, creating a species that served her every command, and thus followed her plan to dominate the entire world, for the good of only one species, the *homo dominus* itself.

Thus began World War 132, the first interspecies war. Now, in the year 3046 A.B. (After Bob) Bob, still in adolescence, was prepared to unleash his two ultimate weapons. One would destroy all life on earth, the other all life on Mars, except the life of Bob herself.

At first Bob only wanted to annihilate humans and Tobors, saving the *homo dominus* and most forms of other life who she felt would not threaten her hegemony, and could even augment it. However, upon hearing some humans still lived on the planet earth, underground, and after failing to annex Tobor Land several times, Bob decided it was time to take drastic measures.

To be continued ... next issue, a description of Bob, her kingdom and the destruction of all life, save Bob.

# Submit to the Quid.



# C+

by Adam Allouba, Law II

I try not to complain too much (really, I do) but it seems that every time I write to the Quid I have a problem with something or other. All I can say in my defence is that law school seems to nurture the inner jerk within us all. This week's rant is brought to you by the letter C+. C, as I learned recently, is for Charles. C+ also happens to be the lousy mark I got in one of my courses last semester. Now, I realise that a C+ in law school is likely to elicit as much sympathy as a pimple in a cancer ward. This particular C+, however, has somewhat different parentage than most. No common C+ this. It was born at approximately 3:00 on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 11, 2001. It was at that point that the professor entered the exam room, walked to the front of the class, solicited our attention for but a moment, and changed the exam question.

Allow me to restate that last sentence, as perhaps you believed me to be insane. I assure you, the man informed the class that the question to which he was seeking an answer was in fact different from that which was on paper. The fact pattern may well have included a limitation of liability clause, but we were to ignore it for the first part of the problem. I pondered this information for a moment, not quite grasping its implications. For the next 15 minutes, I made an attempt to 'fix' my answer. I then realised that what was required was in fact the complete and total opposite of what I had been discussing. I am not one normally given to panic on an exam - indeed, school is perhaps the one thing about which I do not stress in life - but these were not normal circumstances. Having lost 45 minutes and being frazzled, I

meekly stumbled to the end of the exam and handed in what was beyond a doubt the worst exam I have ever written for keeps.

I do not wish to claim that a monstrous injustice had been perpetrated against the whole class. Many of my colleagues after the exam told me they had been writing along those lines all along, and the other half of the class in another room had appar-

No, life is  
certainly not fair.

ently not even received the clarification (apparently to no harm). The question certainly did make more sense if one looked at it that way. In response, allow me to ask which is the more reasonable approach: (1) answer the question as asked, even if it is somewhat different than that which could have been expected; (2) answer a question very similar to that posed, but which is altered such that it makes more sense than what is on the paper beneath one's nose. Clearly the correct course of action in this case was the latter. I am not, however, one who is prone to risk-taking. To me, it seems far wiser to reply to what one is asked than to what one believes should have been asked. After all, how much chance would a student have if (s)he took the second approach and, upon receiving a poor mark, insisted that "yeah, but that wasn't what you SHOULD have asked!" I wager not much of one. Most - perhaps the overwhelming majority - of students answered the question correctly. But there was obviously SOMEONE in the exam

room who asked a question which led to the correction, and it wasn't me.

The most galling aspect of this whole situation is that upon seeking redress, I was informed that there was no problem because the loss of 45 minutes "didn't affect your mark." Pardon me? No effect?

This could be considered a compliment. Perhaps what was meant was that losing such a large block of time did not affect my grade because I am such a strong student who could recover from such a predicament. I would like to think so but, alas, such is not the case. Conversely, perhaps I am such a weak student that the end result would be the same regardless. Again, I daresay the evidence does not support that

conclusion. The upshot of all this is that I am left with a C+ on my transcript which I can't believe for a second is even remotely reflective of my ability to write a fair exam.

"Life's not fair you JACKASS," you cry out (I suggest not using too loud a tone, lest you bring attention to yourself). No, life is certainly not fair. God knows I've had exams where I felt the questions were too difficult, or there was insufficient time, or I just plain blanked. But FOR CHRISAKES ALL I DID WRONG WAS ANSWER THE QUESTION THE MAN ASKED AND FOR THAT I GOT A C+! Isn't that a little over the top? Just a little? Aren't you supposed to be able to count on the professor asking the question he meant to ask? Would it have been impossible to preface the first question with the instructions "assume there is no limitation of liability clause?" Given that I've just typed the damned words I can say with supreme confidence that it did me minimal harm. Hell, I'll do it again: assume there is no limitation



of liability clause. Italicised: *assume there is no limitation of liability clause*. All caps: ASSUME THERE IS NO LIMITATION OF LIABILITY CLAUSE. Reversed: esualc ytilibail fo noitatimil on si ereht emussa. The possibilities are endless, and the irony is that any one of these various forms would have been more helpful on the exam than what was there, which was ABSOLUTELY NOTHING. "It didn't affect your mark."

Just so that this isn't a completely self-indulgent tirade, I do have something to say about something besides myself. In addition to the above, I've heard some other stories which really left me as baffled as Cletus, the slack-jawed yokel. To wit: Student calls MARS. Student learns he got A in course. Student goes to thank professor for high grade. Professor asks what grade student got. Student tells professor. Professor states "A? I don't give As." Student's mark is changed to A-. Here's another: Professor teaches students. Students all learn material thoroughly. Professor is pleased. Students all deserve As. Professor tries to give students marks they deserve. Faculty of Law informs professor "we don't do that here. You have to follow the bell curve." Unbelievable, I think.

As has been much publicised recently, the faculty apparently informs incoming professors that the average grade spread at McGill is

between 2.5 and 3.0. Most first-year courses seem to be taught by experienced professors, and essays are a whole other ball of wax so I'll exclude them. As indicated in statistics which appeared recently in the Quid, the average mark at McGill Law is 2.996. There were 860 upper-year exams at 3.0 or above. There were 414 at 2.7 or below. All this is to say that if incoming lecturers are indeed told the average mark range is between 2.5 and 3.0 then that is deliberate terminological inexactitude. That phrase is a subdued form of the more succinct word which describes such a situation but which is considered unparliamentary language.

A wise man once said "the only purpose of exams is to rank us so the law firms have an easy way of picking us." I couldn't agree more. They are an exercise with absolutely no pedagogical value whatsoever which I can discern. Frankly, I find it amazing that they are still a widely accepted form of evaluation. Wouldn't it be a sounder approach to have more drafting exercises and legal writing assignments than to spend a good 20 hours in the last two weeks of the semester sweating over an exam booklet? There is absolutely no way that I am the first, second, third or four-thousand-seven-hundred-and-eighty-fifth person to whom this thought has occurred. Is there really a single person left on this planet who honestly believes that

one's performance in a 3-hour space of time can accurately reflect one's mastery of a subject? I would wager that in saying no, I am only stating a truism. The real question is why on earth, if we all agree that exams are at best a mediocre gauge of actual understanding, are they still used? Perhaps resources are a problem, although I couldn't say how much more work it is to evaluate assignments than to mark exams. The real answer is doubtless academic inertia coupled with a fear of the unknown. McGill likes to think of itself as an innovator - witness transsystemia. Well, McGill, how's this for innovation: how about we just TRY to reduce the number of courses marked on the basis of a single exam? An assignment here, a project there is all it would take. If it works, maybe we could even wean ourselves off the damned things forever. I think the benefits of such a system are obvious: marks which more accurately reflect our understanding of the material, an increase in the group work which we're told is the hallmark of legal practice, an end to end-of-semester stress, and so on. Well, maybe there's one positive which isn't immediately clear to most: I'd never have to worry about having to cab home in the middle of an exam to get my summary which was inadvertently left on my desk. Ah, but that's a whole other article...

Have you previously worked as a bouncer/doorman, or in crowd control/security? Are you organized? Handy with a flashlight and tickets? Have I got a job for you!

Exercise your expertise while raising money for five wonderful local charities. Skit Nite is just around the corner, and the house crew needs approximately eight ushers and security people for the night of March 14th. If you want to get involved, but don't have a lot of time during the weeks leading up to Skit Nite, this is the perfect job for you - we will probably meet once during the week before the 14th, and then will work the evening of. If any of this sounds remotely interesting, please contact me as soon as possible. Thanks!

Karen Lajoie, House Manager  
[klajoie@sprint.ca](mailto:klajoie@sprint.ca)



# Des notes vides de sens

by Julie Lassonde

J'imagine que la psychose des résultats de la session d'automne est passée déjà. Pour moi, par contre, tout se passe à retardement puisque je suis à Hong Kong et que ma session a commencé trois semaines plus tard, dans un tourbillon de trucs à faire pour m'organiser.

J'aimerais tout de même revenir sur le système d'évaluation de la faculté de droit qui ne m'impressionne nullement en comparaison avec le niveau d'enseignement et de participation des étudiantes et étudiants.

L'écoute de mes notes me laisse avec un sentiment de vide complet.

Ce qu'elles veulent dire, je ne le sais pas.

L'année passée, j'ai toujours relu mes examens et j'en ai discuté avec mes professeurs. C'est un exercice que je trouve indispensable considérant le peu de commentaires que l'on reçoit sur nos copies. N'est-on pas supposé apprendre de nos

erreurs ? Est-ce que le but ultime d'une évaluation n'est pas de nous permettre de savoir jusqu'à quel point on a compris la matière ? Est-ce important de comprendre quelque chose à la faculté de droit de McGill?

Peut-être qu'on a amplement abordé le sujet dans les Quid passés ou peut-être qu'on a annoncé récemment que la faculté passait au système « passer ou couler », je n'en sais rien. Pour l'instant, je suis comme vous mise en rang entre mes amies Noura et Cat (dois-je préciser que c'est un exemple fictif ou allez-vous tenter de calculer nos résultats dans vos têtes ?) pour fins administratives.

Les rangs sont à la campagne québécoise du début du siècle, ce que l'insignifiance est au système d'évaluation de la faculté de droit.

Alors quoi ? Signifiez ! La seule chose qui fonctionne d'après moi est de donner des commentaires écrits ou verbaux et de comparer, dans un dialogue entre étudiants - étudiantes, professeurs - professeures

et institution, ce que l'on valorise dans l'apprentissage afin que tous et toutes puissent savoir dans quel système d'éducation ils sont embarqués et comment ils peuvent le transformer.

Ce dialogue est présent à la faculté de droit mais le système de notes et la façon dont les examens sont corrigés et remis à tout le monde bloque le processus, ce qui ne peut qu'être frustrant et qui est une lacune au sein d'un groupe de gens qui se croient intelligents.

Il est peut-être difficile d'arriver à un consensus dans un groupe hétérogène mais je ne comprends pas comment il puisse être si facile d'ignorer un malaise général et ses répercussions sur les individus et la communauté. J'aimerais avoir des commentaires de la part de ceux et celles qui sont en mesure d'apporter des modifications au système.

Julie.lassonde@mail.mcgill.ca

# Happy ValenCRAP Day Everyone!

by Nadia Fiorita, Law III

Browse through the beloved calendar of days and months and what have we got? Dates upon dates, commemorations upon commemorations honouring this day, that day and the other, most of which—let us admit it frankly—serve to assert one's superiority over the other and to say, in a few words: "hey, I am way better than you."

Birthdays: what do they say? They say, hey, I was born on this day. It is MY birthday and not yours and if you are dead and a carcass, you

will never have another one of these so stay the hell away from my presents. That's what birthdays say. Mother's Day, Father's day: a mere masked attempt by fruitful and fertile child-bearers and child-rearers alike to flaunt their kids or swollen bellies and gorging fertility fumes under barren noses and childless hopefuls.

And then we have Valentine's Day: oh, the mother of all mothers, when the height of human inequality reaches its most flagrant apex. (I shake my head at this point, slowly for emphasis).

You know this day. Oh yeah,

some of you know this day better than others. This is the day when those cutesy wootsey, lovey dovey, woopsey doopsey couples come out of hiding and skip around bedecked in dazzling red, flowers and Zales jewelry, wiping crap off each other's faces in public restaurants (some couples making out so bad you'd think they were gonna do it right there on the table in front of antipasti and children alike) and occasionally blinding the rest of us singles at the very single bar stools (hoping the thongs do the trick this time), with the brandishing of a glaring 14, 20,



gazillion carrot worth of diamonds.

On this day, society, the world, God and humanity have allowed these coupled entities to be unleashed like hiding badgers to claim their reign, to piss and mark their territory like beautiful wolves, to lord it over us like only Kings know to do.

But like birthdays and Mother's Day, what good, I ask you, is served by having such days?

Where does that place the rest of us who look into our bag of treats on Christmas and find out, hey, you're not a Christian, so, no gifts for you this year.

I mean, what good is served?

Where does that place the rest of us sheep among the fold of red?

I think that if we have Valentine's Day, then in keeping with the same spirit of inequality, we should also have "Full-Head-Of-Hair Day" where men that can only cut their hair with the use of high-powered Motormaster garden equipment can lord it over the shining baldies or comb-over overs of the masses. Mark it on you calendar kids, cause I am making my own. Let's say March 30<sup>th</sup>. Is that a good one for you?

And how about "Big-Boobs-

Week" where double Ds come out and beat the crap out of the breastally unendowed with mammoth strikes of mammoth breasts. I'm thinking July 14, when halter tops make their appearance and the flat-as-a-boards can get a better looky. Mark it. Mark it, I say.

And then, finally, and my all-time favourite, there could be "I'm rich day" where anyone that has anything just over pocket change in their pockets can prance around wearing pageant sashes like WWF championship title belts and taunt the homeless on Peel Street. How's about we take Christmas day for that one? Mark it.

Really, I think that the sky's the limit at this point.

I think that instead of designating all the days that we do on specific and known dates, we should mix them up a little, to see the reality behind those dates. One of the reasons that I feel that days like Valentine's should be abolished is that they are often in stark contradiction of reality, like the airbrushed model on the cover of Vogue who in reality has a third nipple and really greasy hair.

I believe that we should lift

the veil of artifice and expose what lies behind these "days" and "dates".

Like this year, let's have Mother's Day on October 1<sup>st</sup>. And let's peak into the homes of moms and dads and see those Rockefeller kids really just pimply and grimy, and parents griping about the mundane, devoid of their Mother's Day smiles and garb.

Or let's make Valentine's Day on April 18<sup>th</sup> and let's have it in a Wal-Mart. But don't tell anyone. Let's spy on those same couples and see MR checking out the cashier's ass, or better yet, let's zoom in on MRS being naughty with the pool boy at home while MR has the kids hanging off him like lint in the "10 items or less" line.

Let's do away with all the artifice. Let's do away with all the dates. Let's have a Coke and join hands and accept reality as it is and as it stands.

For me this Valentine's day I will be celebrating Hanukkah.

It ain't Hanukkah.

I ain't Jewish.

But it's a start.

# Chess Corner: Cloning Special

by Pablo E. Bustos, Law III

Here is a list of reasons as to why someone would want to clone them self.

- 1) Maybe they only want to clone part of them self, such as an organ; instead of waiting for an organ to become available, a person could just clone one of their own organs.
- 2) Infertile couples may want to clone themselves.
- 3) A person who wants a child but does not have a sex partner may want to clone them self.
- 4) A person may want to create a cloned army of super soldiers in order to take over the world.
- 5) A person may want to clone for

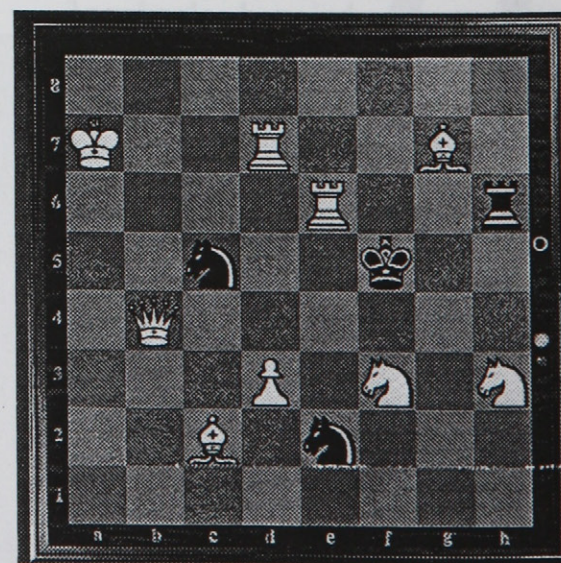
religious purpose; for an example of one group who wants to do just that, go to [www.rael.org](http://www.rael.org).

6) Considering the great level of opposition that has arisen in regards to cloning, a person may want to clone them self in order to rebel from society's norms.

Whatever your reason, happy cloning.

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White to Play and Mate in Two Moves



Solution on Page 19.



# Tales From the Barreau IV: Roller Coaster From Hell

by Al "Ex Presidente" Mendelsohn, Alumnus I

**A**s we sat in the examination room last Wednesday, preparing to write exam #4, Public and Administrative Law, we were discussing the year at the Barreau. "The worst year of my life," someone said. I responded, "At my age, I've seen a lot more years than you have, and it's definitely the worst year of my life." My friend piped up, "I spent a year in Communist Russia and this is absolutely the worst year of my life." Yegads.

Let's face it – the Barreau sucks right now. And I'm not talking about studying all the time and writing exams. I did that for a total of ten years at university, so I'm used to it. It's the ups and downs of the emotional torture you're put through as you write exams and wait for marks over the course of eight months – the roller coaster from hell.

When I last left you, I had just written exam #2, Civil I. In that last article, besides professing my love for Jo Polniaczek (which, by the way, started a flurry of Jo vs. Blair discussions amongst my friends), I wrote that "It (Civil I) was OK. I came out of it feeling like I had at least a good shot at passing... a great feeling - which probably means I'm screwed." I can't believe how prophetic those words were.

Sometime near the end of December I wrote exam #3 – Civil II. It was a nightmare, plain and simple. We had to draft a declaration, and the fact pattern it was based on had at least 10 different contracts in it. I'm not exaggerating. There were two leases, three sales, two suretyships, a

loan, a deposit and others I don't even know what they were. Name a contract in the CCQ, and it was in the fact pattern. Just figuring out what they wanted was hell. My answer sheet was a mess of crossing out, numbers, circles, stars and arrows all over the place. 40 points down the drain. After that disaster, the middle section was comparatively a piece of cake, although I was in such a daze from the *rédaction*, I am a complete

I wonder if the Barreau is using the "toss the exams down the stairs" method too.

mess. Finally I get to the last section, 30 points on hypothecs. I have no fucking clue what is going on. The questions are literally incomprehensible. I read each of the five or six questions, and I have no idea how to begin to answer even one of them. I decide to make shit up – what the hell, that worked at McGill.

Coming out of the exam everyone is stunned. Some friends and I had smoked a joint before we stopped at our normal post-exam bar to drown our sorrows, and I am literally in tears laughing as Goodro goes on and on as only Goodro can about the fact pattern for the *rédaction*, and the hypothec questions. Thank god I did smoke the joint, or those tears would have been tears of sorrow instead of laughter. It was really depressing.

Things really get depressing a few days later, when the Civil I marks come out. The Barreau

website all of sudden required passwords, and I didn't have mine, so I waited until I got to school where the marks are posted. I scan the long list of numbers until I come across mine, and look at the mark. My prophetic words in the last article come true – I have a 58.

AUUUUGHHHHH. There is no more depressing mark at the Barreau than something between 55 and 59.

You know you were just one answer away from passing. But now you're writing a retake in May. My Christmas vacation is two days away, and it's ruined, with the 58 and the nightmare Civil II exam. I'm really pissed, as I think about the 58 almost constantly.

If I thought I was pissed when I saw the mark, I really get pissed when I see my corrected exam, which they mail to you. I lost 10 marks on calculation questions (family patrimony) because I copied down the wrong number. My calculation was perfect, and I showed my work step by step, and it was right, but at some point I had copied down \$65,000 instead of the \$56,000 that was written in the problem. Big fat zero – no part marks at the Barreau. Another question I lost five points because I wrote 1622 CCQ, and it was really 1621 CCQ (or something like that – they were next to each other) and they say virtually the same thing. I have appealed the mark, but I think I just wasted \$60. Out of all the appeals from *Preuve et Procédure*, not a single one was successful. I'm not optimistic.

So I had hit rock bottom of the roller coaster. And over Christmas holidays no less. January comes, and



we're back into the throes of more of this nightmare. I'm really sick of it. But I plod along. Everyone at my office who did it last year says studying for #4 is the hardest, because it seems like it's been going on forever, and you still can't see the end. They're right. PLUS I've got that 58 and Civil II hanging over my head. I really have trouble concentrating.

So we get to exam #4, and I actually think it was fair and I am (almost) certain I passed. The roller coaster is maybe beginning to climb. It really starts to climb the day after the exam, when the Civil II marks are

available. I have my password by now, and check my mark on the Web whenever I roll out of bed (I sleep just fine the night before this time, compared to the night before I got my first mark). I may have also been stalling. But another miracle in the morning occurs – I passed. Another 63 from heaven. I still have no idea how I passed, but I have a clue. For sure the Barreau re-corrected Civil II after the initial marking (as apparently happened with Preuve et Procédure), or used some sort of curve, because for the THIRD EXAM IN A ROW, the pass rate is 55%. There is something really fishy

going on, but I think I must have benefited from whatever it was. I'll take it.

The thing is, now I'm really worried about exam #4. The two exams I thought I failed I passed, and the one exam I thought I passed I failed. At least some things don't change from McGill. I wonder if the Barreau is using the "toss the exams down the stairs" method too.

So if you're coming to the Barreau, bring some Gravol. It's a hell of a ride, and it's sure making me nauseous.



Aaron Chase Law I apologizes to Charles Schulz (But not to Eric Gilman)

## A Message from ELM

Stop, wait...before you throw away that glass bottle of juice or can of soda you just finished...did you know that the Faculty has its very own recycling station in the basement of NCDH? The bins for CLEAR GLASS BOTTLES and ALUMINUM CANS are located just outside of Pino & Mateo's in front of the beige lockers. Pino's has also provided a cardboard recycling box, the white one with the green top, for aluminum cans ONLY, which you'll find next to the milk and lids counter across from the vending machines. When you do make your trip downstairs to dispose of cans and bottles, please do not throw out garbage (i.e. anything other than clear glass bottles and aluminum cans) into the recycling containers; garbage makes the cans and bottles dirty and reduces their ability to be recycled.

A message brought to you by ELM  
(Environmental Law McGill).

Submit to the quid:  
[quid\\_novi@hotmail.com](mailto:quid_novi@hotmail.com)

## A Message from Elections McGill

My name is Marvin Liebman and I am the Chief Returning Officer for Elections McGill. The most immediate upcoming electoral dates and deadlines are as follows:

- o The nomination period for the **LAW SENATOR** position will run from February 8, 2002 through February 21, 2002.
- o The deadline for Student-Initiated Referendum Questions is February 12, 2002.
- o The deadline for Council Initiated Referendum Questions is February 15, 2002.

Questions may be directed to me at the above address. Elections McGill also has a website (<http://www.ssmu.mcgill.ca/elections>).

Marvin Liebman  
Chief Returning Officer  
Elections McGill  
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# My Thoughts on Law Games

by Pete Wright, Law II

**O**K, so we are in February, so maybe I'm a bit late. No matter, I want to chat about Law Games a bit. I would've done it earlier but as some of you know I wasn't around much for the first couple weeks of school- better things to do I suppose.

But now it's time for me to chat, rant and generally remember McGill's first ever Law Games.

First things first. As 3-time defending champions, McGill showed a lot of promise by sending a fair-sized contingent of over 80 people- fairly impressive really considering that meant convincing people to spend 185 bucks to get a hotel room in a city in which they most surely already pay for a more comfortable apartment. But a quick question- 80 people paid, WHERE THE HELL WERE THEY?

I know it's tough to wake up in the morning, I know a lot of people just aren't used to partying quite so much- that after all is a big part of Law Games. But if they were just there for the party- why the hell did they pay 185\$? They could've just showed up at the parties, showed up at the hotel, then gone home. Some people were hard-core. 20 or 30 people were there every morning (or at least early afternoon), ready to go, drunk or sober. But where were the other 50? I watched the progression, I watched the defaults occur in sport after sport. OK, so you were better than Osgoode (who couldn't find enough people out of their 160 person team to compete in tug-of-war!), but then Osgoode showed up enough to win the damned trophy, McGill came in 8<sup>th</sup>- behind such powerhouses as UQAM, Sherbrooke, and Windsor. In any event, a special thanks to those people that did show up to compete- especially the ice

hockey team, the ball hockey team and the waterpolo team, you did well...

And to those who volunteered- thanks ever so much. Cullen, I've still got a case of beer for you for putting up with all that crap on the B-ball court. Wilma- I know it was a bitch, but thanks for making the effort to come in even if you were green. Vinh- tug-of-war just wouldn't have been the same without you. Ben- thanks for the help, you're really the only one we had to bribe but it was appreciated! Tyson- maybe the most hard-core, I know you froze your ass off but we couldn't have done it without you; nor without Brendan for that matter- our little bitch did anything we needed, saved us a couple of times too, and I hear the Western girls just loved him... Dominic- you dug us out of a couple of tight spots and kept us awake when we felt like passing out from lack of sleep. Ari- you gave me a scare when I hadn't heard from you but you didn't let us down, showed up, refereed some good games and put up with a lot of the same crap Cullen had to deal with! Max and Andrew- biggest thing you did was put up with Steve- but thanks for the help too. Martin- you probably don't read the Quid anyway but you saved us at the last minute by taking over volleyball, even without breaks! Craig, Mike, Fabien, Pablo (ran the best dodge-ball show around), Kevin and Osman (even with your bitching Osman), Giovanni, Sophie, Fraser, all you folks showed up, helped out, and to my surprise didn't even drink the beer that was rightfully yours!

And there were more- M. Plamondon ran the ever-popular ping-pong event and everything else, Bentley was more excited for waterpolo than anyone else I know, and of course our lifeguards: Elana

who endured a day where EVERYBODY forfeited their games (must be exciting staring at an empty pool for 8 hours) and Erin, who through some ungodly act of strength showed up on time, for the entire day, despite being out till sunrise the night before (damn that pub crawl...). And who could forget Eva?? As everyone should know by now, J's mom put everyone to shame and rescued the aerobics competition, in the process making it the highlight of the games for many. I know I'm forgetting a bunch of you- I'll buy you all a beer at the next coffee house OK?

The rest: Well folks, it worked! Steve, you put me to shame with your clear-as-mud scheduling talents, but we did it. In the end everyone was happy (AFTER we told them to shut up), so what, maybe you didn't get on TV but hey, you made it on the video OK? We had a blast, it was good working together, just stay away from my sister... Marianne- man-oh-man, someday Marianne, that little spring inside of you that winds you up is going to snap, then you'll turn into a NORMAL person with a NORMAL amount of energy. Congratulations Marianne, you turned out a fantastic event. Joelle- now that I've seen you at school I know that your hands are NOT actually glued to that computer, it just seemed that way since it's the only place I saw you the whole time! And thank god for your family, lest we be lifeguard/aerobic-less. TJ- well I think you're everybody's hero now, at least if you manage to pull this one off! At the least you have everyone's sympathy- nobody in their right mind wanted to go through what you did yet somehow you pulled it off. Vinay- um... Well thanks for the ride to the 737 Vinay. I also heard that the academic event was quite the success- one judge in particular really



had quite the time, and was duly impressed. One of the highlights of the games was sitting with Nancy and watching your conversational enthusiasm at the banquet... Hilary- just how many cigarettes DID you smoke at the banquet!? I thought Tania was the runaway champion for most stressed of the exec., but you sure gave her a run for the money on that last night!! In the end it turned out perfectly (or at least appeared to), just as Tania worked wonders with the cash so did you with your end of the show. Lizanne- I just wish I was there to see you that first night! And no, whatever you believe, there was no "fishing" going on. Kathleen, Dara and Nancy- fantastic, simply fantastic. How did everything work out so well? And that final banquet was perfect- it really was. Exceeded all my expectations as I'm sure it did many many others' as well. Wonderful food, wonderful show, wonderful company, wonderful drinks- who could ask for more? Nobody can

forget the indefatigable Harvey. Hey Harvey- just what did you do with those 300 extra condoms anyway? And my favourite part of the games- the evenings. Kristina, you did a fantastic job, it was you who was responsible for making sure that everybody slept through their games in the morning and you succeeded- thanks for the parties, the fun and the beer. (And special note to Marc Edmunds- that really WAS quite the system at Shatner!)

Law Games was exactly what it was supposed to be- 4 days of memorable chaos. New friends, old friends, momentary friends. Stories- boy there were lots of them! If you were lucky enough to not be the subject of many of them, I'm sure you enjoyed watching your friends' stories develop. And as a note to those four people who found my life interesting enough to voice their own opinions at the 737- Advice and arguments are best never given from a position of ignorance. Doing so

risks exposing not only your ignorance, but your true intentions and nature as well. Granted, your interest was touching, but as future lawyers we should all remember this.

All in all, I just hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I did. Thank you especially to all the volunteers- I'm sure I'm forgetting some of you, but it still amazes me how almost without exception you all showed up on time for your shifts, ready to go. Thank you for letting us rely on you.

And next year? Where will Law Games be? Nobody knows, but you can guarantee I'll be there! It may not be as good as this year's event, it may not have the opening ceremonies or the final banquet of this year's games, but it will without a doubt be a blast. And if you couldn't make it this year, or if you just slept through the whole thing, give it another try next year, come on out and help us get our trophies back...

## From Within a Cool Medium, the Spark of Political Idealism

by Karen Lajoie, Nat IV

"I should like to be able to love my country and still love justice."  
- Albert Camus

A wildly unscientific poll of professors and students confirms what the Quid reported last year – *The West Wing* is the most popular show at Old Chancellor Day.

What is it though, that most appeals to us? Is it the clever writing? The uniformly excellent cast, many of whom have been the best thing in bad projects for years and who are now making the most of this compelling showcase for their individual talents? Is it the uniquely American perspective that is simultaneously thrust upon the world's viewing

public and skewered by a fine, subtle satire? Or does its idealistic view of politics tap the hidden core of the modern cynic, tantalizing us with an image of leadership sadly lacking on the contemporary landscape?

This latter question has been brought into ever-sharper relief for me over the past few months. As much as I enjoy the quirky asides of *The West Wing* (really, where else would a character sing a verse of Sondheim to chide an errant colleague?) it's its view of politics as both a noble profession and a public duty that speaks to me most.

In the past few weeks, our own government has:

1- shuffled a cabinet to displace several ministers who lied and disgraced the office;

2 - rewarded a minister (whose protestations he was not a crook made him look more and more like a northern Nixon every day) with an Ambassadorship;

3- revealed a startling incomprehension of its international legal obligations; and

4 – simultaneously demonstrated an ongoing willingness to lie and mislead the public about its activities overseas.

At the same time, in our parallel television universe, fictional president Jeb Bartlet has halted a congressional investigation into his conduct by admitting he lied, taking responsibility for his actions, apologizing to his staff, and accepting political censure by his opponents. Think carefully – when was the last



time you heard a real politician say "sorry", "I apologize", "it was my fault", or "I accept the consequences of my actions"?

Exactly.

My theory is (and sadly, it is not mine alone), Jeb Bartlet is the president, and the man, many of us hoped Robert Kennedy would become. Like his television doppelganger, Robert Kennedy was a privileged white man who spent his life in the service of those who did not share this background. Like Bartlet, he called upon his staff, and by extension, the citizenry of his country, to make difficult decisions based not on what was politically expedient, but on what was the right thing to do in the circumstances. Can you imagine any current politician, especially a lawyer in public office, making the following speech to a gathering of prominent lawyers?

"Since the days of Greece and Rome when the word *citizen* was a title of honor, we have often seen more emphasis put on the rights of citizenship than on its responsibilities. And today, as never before in the free world, responsibility is the greatest right of citizenship, and service is the greatest of freedom's privileges. Lawyers have their duties as citizens, but they also have special duties as lawyers. Their obligations go far deeper than earning a living as specialists in corporation or tax law. They have a continuing responsibility to uphold the fundamental principles of justice from which the law cannot depart...I realize in a difficult social situation that to defend the fundamental principles of respect for the law and compliance with federal court orders would be unpopular and require great courage." Robert Kennedy said these words in 1962, speaking to a meeting of the American Bar Association in San Francisco, when lawyers in leadership were silent about a growing crisis in Mississippi, as an all-white university refused entrance to a 29-year-old Air Force veteran, who was black.

As our world is ensnarled in a debate over how to handle Afghani prisoners, you might reasonably

expect to hear from the international lawyers elected to public office. After all, with their specialized legal knowledge and experience, they might have something valuable to contribute to the debate. One of this Faculty's leading human rights scholars is himself on leave to sit as an MP in Parliament. But rarely have we heard from Irwin Cotler about the difficult human rights issues posed by this entire "War on Terrorism". The only public comment I am aware of was a half page op ed piece in the November 20, 2001 *Globe and Mail*, where he argued in favour of the government's anti-terrorism bill. Other backbenchers have spoken out against the Liberal party line, saying Canada is bound by its international obligations, and should not turn prisoners over to the American armed forces. But our man in Ottawa has been conspicuously silent. When Mr. Cotler went to Ottawa, he was spoken of as the "conscience" of the government. He has abdicated this mantle, at least in public, by not using his expertise to lead, and to effect change in government policy. The issues we as a people have grappled with these past few months are bigger than partisan politics, but with a paucity of leadership, rhetoric passes for ideas, intellect is derided, and dissent stifled.

In our fictional universe however, the characters are aggressively smart and rewarded for the breadth of their knowledge. Many of them are lawyers more interested in serving their country than billing huge sums in private practice. Again, their ideology hews more closely to the Robert Kennedy 1960s than the Chrétien and Bush 2000s. Four years after the speech I quoted from above, Kennedy was invited to speak at a law school forum at the no longer all-white University of Mississippi, and chose to advance a theme of personal responsibility:

"It is simple to follow the easy and familiar path of personal ambition and private gain. It is more comfortable to sit content in the easy approval of friends and of neighbors

than to risk the friction and the controversy that comes with public affairs. It is easier to fall in step with the slogans of others than to march to the beat of the internal drummer - to make and stand on judgments of your own. And it is far easier to accept and to stand on the past, than to fight for the answers of the future.... Each of us will ultimately be judged - and will ultimately judge himself - on the extent to which he personally contributed to the life of this nation and to world society of the kind we are trying to build."

In a world where responsibility is dodged, apologies are a sign of weakness, and accountability is non-existent, those are powerful words. Trudeau and Levesque have been out of politics nearly 20 years. They are the last true leaders, the last politicians of vision, to grace our national political stage. Where, I might ask, are our new leaders, the graceful orators who can overcome the inertia and sterility of contemporary political thought? Who will make us care again, while recognizing that we have always wanted to care, but feared adding another disappointment to the pile? As we crave leadership, we turn once again to the fictional creation that speaks to us so clearly. During the Bush-Gore court battles, a poll showed Jeb Bartlet would have taken 20% more of the American vote than either of the real candidates. It's a telling statistic that at once delineates how popular this character and this show are, while revealing more than we might like about our real life political choices, if one dares presume choice at all.

"What the new politics is, in the last analysis, is a reaffirmation of the best within the great political traditions of our nation: compassion for those who suffer, determination to right the wrongs within our nation, and a willingness to think and to act anew, free from old concepts and false illusions. That is the kind of politics - the kind of leadership - people want," Robert Kennedy said more than 35 years ago. Only on television, you say? Pity.



# Call for Skits

-----  
Do people (other than your mom) think you're talented?

If so, YOU could be part of the most **spectacular** event  
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## *Skit Nite 2002*

So if you have an idea for a skit, song, dance, comedy  
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run to the LSA office and pick up a  
**submission form**,  
then get ready for the big-time, baby, because  
we're going to make you a **STAR!!!**

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>

*Enjoy the trip...*  
*Mind trip.*



# Career and Placement Office

NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 29, 2002

Hello everyone,

## 1) REMERCIEMENTS AUX BÉNÉVOLES !

Un très grand merci à toute l'équipe de bénévoles qui m'ont aidé à l'organisation et au déroulement de la Journée Carrières (droit civil). Sans vous nous n'y serions pas arrivés!

## 2) RECRUTEMENT DE MONTRÉAL - Update

\*\*\*Veuillez noter que la feuille verte est recto verso !!!

Vous pourrez vous procurer la NOUVELLE feuille contenant toutes les informations nécessaires en vue du recrutement de cette année: liste des cabinets/organismes participants, nom de la personne à qui adresser votre lettre, adresse et date à laquelle vous devrez déposer votre candidature.

À cette fin, l'Entente de recrutement est disponible au Service de placement. Le GUIDE DE RECHERCHE D'EMPLOI JURIDIQUE contient un section très explicite sur le recrutement de Montréal. Il est important de noter que :

- a) ce recrutement s'adresse aux étudiants de 2e et de 3e année qui cherchent un STAGE pour 2004
- b) en aucun cas, il s'agit d'un recrutement pour les postes d'été (sauf exceptions).

Les dates importantes à retenir :

- a) 6, 8 et 15 février : dépôt des candidatures au Service de placement, avant midi.
- b) 4 mars : début des entrevues. Les entrevues auront lieu dans les

cabinets/organismes  
c) 25 mars : début des offres d'embauche

## 3) CAREERS DAYS & CAREER WITHOUT BORDERS – Dates

a) Careers Without Borders - Feb. 12, 13, 14

Panel Discussions:  
February 12th & 14th  
Local Public Sector: Tuesday, February 12th, 11:30-1:00 pm  
International Public Sector: Tuesday, February 12th, 1:00-2:30 pm  
Private International Sector: Thursday, February 14th, 11:30-1:00 pm

Human Rights Careers Day:  
February 13th  
NGOs/Social Justice Group Booths:  
9:30 am-1:30 pm  
Panel Discussion: 12:30 pm- 2:00 pm, in the Moot Court  
Networking Event (Interviews): 2:30 pm-5:00 pm\*  
Reception: 5:30 pm- 7:00 pm

All events will take place in the Atrium, unless otherwise specified  
Post panel refreshments provided  
\*Registration for interviews required (details to be provided)

Presented by: The Career Placement Office, Human Rights Working Group, & McGill International Law Society

b) Common Law – Monday, Mar. 18

I will keep you posted as we are getting closer to the date of the Careers Day!

Je cherche des bénévoles qui m'aideront avec le déroulement des diverses activités à l'horaire : accueil des participants, démontage, coordination et j'en passe... Si vous avez une heure ou deux dont vous

pouvez disposer, laissez-le-moi savoir par courriel :

[st-laurent@falaw.lan.mcgill.ca](mailto:st-laurent@falaw.lan.mcgill.ca).

## 4) GOVERNMENT - ARTICLING POSITIONS

-FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: The deadlines for articling positions are coming up soon (Feb. 15 at the CPO; Feb. 22 if you send it directly to them). They offer positions for 2003 and 2004. For the specifics, pick you information/application package at the CPO or chez the boards.

Web: [www.lep-pea.ca](http://www.lep-pea.ca); click on articling opportunities; choose a region.

-Le ministère de la Justice (Canada) offre à son Bureau régional du Québec un poste de stagiaire destiné exclusivement à une personne handicapée et ce, pour l'année 2003. Les candidats et candidates doivent indiquer clairement sur leur CV leur appartenance à ce groupe et confirmer leur citoyenneté canadienne, sinon leur demande ne sera pas considérée pour ce poste. On vous rappelle que tous nos autres postes réguliers sont comblés pour 2003. La date limite pour postuler sur ce concours est le 22 février 2002. Le postulant doit soumettre un CV, des références ainsi qu'un relevé officiel de ses notes. La demande doit être envoyée soit par courrier, télécopieur ou courriel à l'adresse suivante :

Ministère de la Justice Canada  
Mme Ginette Côté, Conseillère en Ressources humaines  
Bureau régional du Québec  
Complexe Guy-Favreau  
200, boul. René-Lévesque O.  
Tour Est, 9e étage  
Montréal (Québec)  
H2Z 1X4



Tél : (514) 496-0655  
 Fax : (514) 283-4734  
 Courriel : [ginette.cote@justice.gc.ca](mailto:ginette.cote@justice.gc.ca)

Divers arrangements sont prévus pour répondre aux besoins des personnes handicapées pendant le processus de sélection ou lors de leur stage : les examens sont offerts en versions adaptées ; la durée de l'examen peut être ajustée selon les besoins. En cas de sélection, le ministère offrira si nécessaire des aides techniques, ajustera les méthodes de travail ou aménagera le poste de travail pour répondre aux besoins particuliers.

Web : [www.Canada.justice.gc.ca](http://www.Canada.justice.gc.ca)

- QUEBEC GOVERNMENT: The positions are posted at BAR school.

#### 5) CLERKSHIPS – Reminder

- Cour d'appel du Québec: postes de recherchiste en droit (clerc): Stages 2003. Cette offre s'adresse à ceux qui entreprennent des études à l'école du Barreau en septembre 2002.

Sous la responsabilité du juge en chef ou de son département, préparer les mémoires sur les faits et les points de droit relatifs aux jugements qui doivent être rendus, analyser les positions des parties, faire état des questions de droit soulevées par les causes, fournir son appréciation lorsque requise quant au mérite des causes entendues ou à être entendues, préparer avant jugement toute la recherche requise soit au niveau de la jurisprudence, de la doctrine ou des lois existantes. Les 6 premiers mois d'emploi sont reconnus par le Barreau du Québec aux fins du stage de formation professionnelle. Le contrat est d'une durée de 2 ans. Traitement annuel : stage

de 6 mois (20,735.00\$) ; emploi occasionnel (18 mois) 33,266 à 35,568.00\$ + majoration du taux de traitement annuel de 11.12% + vacances annuelles. Date limite d'inscription : 22 février. Modalités : Fournir une lettre de présentation, un Curriculum vitae, une liste de 3 répondants et une copie du relevé officiel de notes universitaires. Les entrevues se tiendront en mars pour les postes à Montréal et en avril pour les postes à Québec.

Coordonnées (Montréal):  
 Madame Claudine Bisailon/Stage 2003 CAM  
 Ministère de la Justice  
 Direction des ressources humaines  
 1, rue Notre-Dame Est/Bureau 8.100  
 Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1B6  
 Tel. : (514) 393-2072  
 Telec. : (514) 873-2526

-Upcoming deadlines: Superior Court of Justice – Ontario: Feb. 15

#### 6) LL.M. STUDENTS

-Stage en histoire parlementaire (juin 2002 à novembre 2003) – Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale – Reconstitution des débats. Chacun des boursiers établira le compte rendu des débats de l'Assemblée législative entre 1960 et 1963. Il/elle devra prendre connaissance de la conjoncture historique, dépouiller les journaux de l'époque et élaborer un texte de base à partir des documents officiels, des journaux importants et des autres sources inventoriées. Les candidats devront être titulaires d'un baccalauréat en histoire d'une université québécoise et poursuivre des études de 2e ou 3e cycle en histoire du Québec ou être titulaires d'une maîtrise ou d'un doctorat en histoire (ou l'équivalent dans une autre discipline universitaire \*) depuis moins d'un an. Ils devront être de citoyenneté canadienne ou avoir le

statut de résident permanent. Date limite : 28 mars 2002. Formulaire d'inscription disponible au CPO.

\* Ils sont ouverts aux candidatures des étudiants en droit pourvu qu'ils aient une formation initiale en histoire

Tél : (418) 643-5030  
 Fax : (418) 641-2636  
 Courriel : [bibliotheque@assnat.qc.ca](mailto:bibliotheque@assnat.qc.ca)

-You are also welcomed to participate in the Montreal Recruitment providing you are able to qualify for the Barreau du Québec in the required timeframe. The firms are mainly looking for articling students for 2004.

#### 7) SUMMER POSITIONS

-Sack Goldblatt Michell is looking for 2 summer students for the period May 2002 to the end of August 2002 in the area of labour law and employment law, and civil litigation, including labour arbitration, proceedings before the Ontario Labour Relations Board, construction labour relations, human rights and equity issues and wrongful dismissal litigation. Preference will be given to students currently in their second year of law school. The firm represents a broad range of trade unions in both the private and broader public sectors. They also represent a variety of employee and professional associations, umbrella labour organizations, social justice groups and individual employees. Deadline: Feb. 13.

Contact: Cathy Lace  
 Sack Goldblatt Mitchell  
 20 Dundas Street, W.  
 Suite 1130, P.O. Box 180  
 Toronto, Ontario  
 M5G 2G8  
 Fax: (416) 591-7333  
 E-mail: [cathylace@sgmlaw.com](mailto:cathylace@sgmlaw.com)  
 -SWEIBEL NOVEK seeks student interested in Taxation Law for



summer position, with potential for articling and full-time employment. They are a six-lawyer firm specializing in Taxation Law (planning and litigation) and related corporate/commercial fields. If interested, please send your curriculum vitae and academic record to:

Contact: Sweibel Novek, s.e.n.c.  
3449 Avenue du Musée  
Montreal, Quebec  
H3G 2C8

Attention : Douglas Yip

Tel: (514) 839-1188

Fax: (514) 849-1176

E-mail: [dyip@sweibelnovek.com](mailto:dyip@sweibelnovek.com)

Web: [www.sweibelnovek.com](http://www.sweibelnovek.com)

Please remit your curriculum vitae and academic record before February 28, 2002.

-DFAIT will be hiring 2 summer students (1 May to 1 Sept.) to do research, write documents and to assist with panels on NAFTA and the WTO. They are looking for students who have an interest in public international law, international trade law and who have good research skills. You have to register with FSWEF. Also send your application to:

Denyse MacKenzie  
Trade Law Bureau  
Pearson Building  
125 Sussex, Tower C  
Ottawa K1A 0G2

-Placement Office Coordinator  
Position: Career Placement Office – Summer 2002

The Career Placement Office is looking for a first-year student to fill the position of Summer Placement Office Coordinator.

#### Daily Duties

- Handle telephone and e-mail messages
- File correspondence
- Monitor the office
- Answer student requests
- Post new positions on the Board

- Update employers data bank
- Keep the Documentation Center updated

#### Preparation of Fall recruitment events

- Help in the preparation of Fall recruitment events (Toronto OCI and US recruitment) : invitations, confirmations, registrations, printing of material such as name tags, etc.
- Compile information on Clerkships applications deadlines

#### Contribution to the Articling Guide, 2002-2003 Edition

- Review the new edition
- Update information
- Improve the previous edition according to CPO's Director recommendations
- Handle correspondence regarding sponsorships

The successful applicant must have previous office work experience and be very comfortable with WORD file merges and Access. Bilingual.

Date : Beginning of May to the end of August 2002 (with some part-time training in March - flexible hours to be discussed with the CPO's Director)

Salary : In accordance with McGill Faculty of Law policy, between \$8.00 - \$9.75 / hr.

If interested, bring you CV to Brigitte St-Laurent, Director, CPO, by February 15, 2002.

#### 8) MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAM – Stikeman Elliott

The interviews scheduled with Michèle Denis will have to be rescheduled to the week of Feb. 18. Please contact me if you have scheduled one!

#### 9) VISITE GUIDÉE au PALAIS DE JUSTICE – Register fast!

Le Palais de Justice organise une série d'activités pour les étudiants en droit prévues le 20 février de 9h00 à 16h00. Thème : les métiers de

la Justice. Entre autres à l'agenda : visites guidées, kiosque d'information, procès simulés par des juges, séances de médiation simulées, conférence-midi avec le journaliste Michel Auger et exposition de pièces à conviction. Vous devez réserver vos places pour le procès et les visites guidées : (514) 393-2256 poste 2647. Adresse : 1, rue Notre-Dame Est.

10) THE LEGAL HANDBOOK – everything you need to know about legal placement. On sale at the CPO.

#### 11) NEW ACQUISITIONS...

The CPO acquired new books:

- Walton, Kimm Alayne, America's Greatest Places to Work with a Law Degree, Harcourt Brace, 1999. 1137 pages
- NALP, A Guide for Women Law Students, 2001. 30 pages

#### 12) POSITIONS – Others

- Quicklaw désire s'adjoindre les services d'un éditeur juridique de lois et d'un éditeur juridique. Les deux postes sont permanents et à temps plein. La qualité irréprochable du français est une exigence pour l'obtention du poste. Les personnes intéressées peuvent faire parvenir le CV & lettre avant le 15 février à l'attention de Me Mélanie Boivin : Fax : (514) 287-0350 ou par courriel : [mboivin@quicklaw.com](mailto:mboivin@quicklaw.com).

#### 12) CAPS

CAPS just sent me the list of activities planned until Feb. 8. Please consult of the Board near the Cafétéria.

## Solution to the Chess Problem

The white bishop on C2 moves to D1. Black makes any move. White mates accordingly.



# A Moral Claim

by Edmund Coates, Nat IV

Why obey the law? Over the centuries, humour has traded on a widespread worry about lawyers, by associating them with prostitution. While prostitution keeps a key element across cultures and times, the practice varies in its refinement. In regard to the prostitutes of ancient Greece, and their striking gymnastics, Martha Nussbaum writes "one may well doubt whether any woman in the bizarre positions often depicted on vase paintings could be experiencing any pleasure other than that of athletic accomplishment". A certain approach to legal study and practice may hone technical skills, yet leave the most human elements behind. Some people just focus on how to get things done, or on the difficulties, ambiguities and flaws in the law. These people risk forgetting the reasons, beyond coercion or efficiency, for the laws' claim upon us. One reason worth remembering is the ethical weight of the system as a whole.

If you found a Monet painting abandoned in your room, it would make a claim on you to preserve from damage. You would be wrong to tear it up, or to throw it out back, where it would be exposed to the elements. First, you would owe respect to the artist, and thus to his creation, the product of his deliberation and expression. Second, the painting's aesthetic value would call for respect. The painting may be a fine work, and the artist a great painter. Still, our laws represent an incomparably richer work; they flow from the concerted deliberation, effort, and forbearance of millions of people. A system of laws is a human achievement, a moral enterprise whose conservation we each can either advance or impair. By respecting the law, we contribute to its progress. By breaking the law, we contribute to its decline. When we engage in so-called victimless crimes, we still erode the law. The legal system is sustained only by our concerted daily

practice.

Some may see a flaw in my analogy. Law is an ongoing, imperfect work, so why should we be deterred from adding our own brushstrokes? Why shouldn't we break the law when we feel that our violation fits the true logic of the system? In fact, violation of the law is not adding brushstrokes. It is more like tearing at the painting, or neglecting it, exposing it to the elements. Respect for the painting and the artist demands respect for the manner it was created or is being created. Part of the unity and value of a work come from integrity in the creative process. Respectful change for laws comes through legal means. As well, the laws of a democracy rest on the respect we owe all the other people, with whom we share, to some measure of equality, in law-making power. Perhaps disobedience of clearly unjust laws is morally permitted; but the value of the law means that breaking the law even in such a case calls for a measure of regret.

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## Autographs